

From: Calvin Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 3:25am
Subject: Microsoft antitrust settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express to you my profound disappointment with the proposed settlement to the long and expensive legal battle over Microsoft's abuses of antitrust and anti-competition laws. That Microsoft would be allowed to extend their monopoly into the education sector, one of the few areas in which they don't already have a devastating monopoly, is absolutely astounding. I don't understand how anybody (but Microsoft) could think that this is an appropriate remedy. I believe, instead, that a better solution would be to implement Red Hat's proposed solution of allowing Microsoft to donate hardware and allowing Red Hat (or any non-Microsoft company) to supply the Linux operating system and open source software to run on those machines. The Microsoft alternative would have the effect of leaving schools stranded after 5 years when Microsoft stops supplying software, for schools would be unable to afford Microsoft's exorbitant license fees in order to keep the computers functioning and up to date. The Linux solution encourages competition in the education sector, provides for more hardware and software for schools than the Microsoft plan.

I strongly encourage you to consider this matter carefully, as I and many of my fellow software professionals are extremely unhappy at the proposed solution, which looks more like a reward to Microsoft for its past harms to the consumer and to its competitors than an actual punishment or settlement.

Sincerely,

Calvin Smith